

Ninth session of the IRENA Assembly

## 2019 Public-Private Dialogue

10 January 2019, 16:30 – 18:30, Room A1  
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

### Public and Private Actions Needed to Accelerate the Energy Transformation

#### Background

The last decade has witnessed an unprecedented transformation of the energy system. Technology innovation, maturing policy frameworks, and continuous cost declines have made renewables cost-competitive with conventional sources of energy. In 2017, for the seventh year in a row, capacity additions of renewables outpaced those in fossil fuels.

Next to offering an affordable source of energy, renewables provide numerous socio-economic and environmental benefits, supporting the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a result, many governments around the world are scaling up renewables, including the over 50 countries and hundreds of regions and cities that have pledged to reach 100% renewable energy.

While ambition is higher than ever before, and deployment of renewable energy is accelerating, the current pace of the energy transformation is still far from what is needed to decarbonise the energy sector. In this context, the IRENA Coalition for Action has been focusing its efforts and analyses on how to rapidly increase renewable energy to considerably higher shares in the global energy mix. Building on case studies from around the world as well as on the ground experiences of some of the leading players in the renewable energy field, the Coalition finds that major opportunities exist to scale up renewables to shares as high as 100% given the right enabling frameworks are put in place.

The Coalition White Papers conclude that while various support schemes have helped market penetration of renewables, further accelerating investment would require greater involvement by the private sector and community energy players. In addition to removing market distortions in favour of conventional sources of energy, a number of legislative and regulatory challenges remain to be addressed in mature and maturing markets.

In this context, policy makers and legislators have a key role to play in adapting legislative and regulatory frameworks to rapidly evolving markets and investment environments. Next to ensuring that policies and legislation are efficient and effective at the national level, they have an important role to further encourage collaboration between public, private and community stakeholders and bolster public support for renewables.

The importance of some of these synergies of action between different stakeholders was captured in a resolution unanimously adopted at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in March 2018, entitled ‘Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy’. The resolution identifies the role of parliaments to step-up engagement around the SDGs.

### **Objectives**

The Public-Private Dialogue between the public, private and community stakeholders intends to build common understanding and encourage complementary actions to significantly scale up renewable energy deployment and achieve common goals.

This high-level event will also serve to highlight key opportunities and challenges in expanding renewable energy markets worldwide, and the need for better alignment between policy makers, legislators, and the private sector in order to maximise socio-economic and community benefits.

### **Questions for Discussion**

The transformation to a considerably higher share of renewable energy in the global energy mix is technically feasible and socio-economically beneficial, as showcased in multiple studies by IRENA and the Coalition for Action.

- What are the main legislative and regulatory challenges that still remain to be addressed in order to significantly scale up renewables? How can policy makers support to overcome them?
- How can the private sector accelerate progress towards achieving 100% renewable energy?
- What efforts are needed from public and private sectors to maximise socio-economic benefits, in particular at the community level?

### **For more information please contact:**

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